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■ INSIDE

The Pelham Panthers bantam A/E hockey team is one win away from capturing the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship. The Panthers battle Elmvalle Friday night in Elmvalle where they can claim the OMHA title. If the Panthers prevail on Friday at 8 p.m., it would give them their fifth straight series sweep in these playoffs.

see HOCKEY | Page 18

■ INFRASTRUCTURE: New bridge and roads to cost \$2.8 million



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

Construction is underway on the roads leading up to O'Reilly's Bridge. It links Pelham and Wainfleet across the Welland River near the Niagara Central Airport. The century-old bridge was closed for safety reasons in January. The \$2.5 million project to replace it is expected to be completed by the fall.

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Mega bridge repair underway

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — You will roll across a new O'Reilly's Bridge by the end of November.

A \$2.8 million project to replace the bridge that links Pelham and Wainfleet across the

Welland River is underway. Brennan Paving Ltd. of Port Colborne has begun work on the two approach roads to the bridge.

The bridge will sit higher than the current one, said Mike DiPaola, senior transportation engineer for Niagara Region. It

will require adjustments in the roads leading to it from River Road on the Pelham side and Regional Rd. 27 on the Wainfleet side.

The one-lane iron frame bridge will be replaced by a flat two-lane bridge, said DiPaola. It will include decorative stone

work and a midstream pillar.

O'Reilly's Bridge was closed last January when an inspection raised questions about the safety of the bridge. "I'm sure residents in the area will be happy to see it open again," said DiPaola.

see BRIDGE | Page 2

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GET HEALTHY



■ OBITUARY: Remembering Edgar A. "Bud" Ker

War veteran, volunteer dies at 88

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — The town has lost Edgar A. "Bud" Ker an exceptional volunteer, a high-profile Second World War veteran and the last participant of Pelham District High School.

Mr. Ker, 88, who died Thursday at Shorthills Villa retirement home was a Spitfire pilot during the war receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross.

During the 1970s, he led a spirited but unsuccessful fight to keep the Fenwick high school open.

Pelham mayor Dave Augustyn said the passing of Mr. Ker "is a real loss for the community," recalling his roles as an educator, as an active veteran and as a Fenwick farmer.

"He had a wonderfully dry sense of humour," said the mayor. "He will be sadly missed."

News of Mr. Ker's passing saddened Friday's weekly luncheon at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 614.

Until a few months ago, he was a regular dishwasher for the lunch cheering on the work crew.

It was just one of the many jobs he took on at the branch, said legion president Don Coter.

"He is thoroughly missed," he said Friday. "Everybody is talking about him."

Mr. Ker is particularly remembered as the legion's director of youth education reaching out into the schools through Remembrance Day ceremonies and class visits, as well as organizing poetry, poster and essay contests.

"He worked hard to get the message out" about the experiences of Canadian veterans, the role of the legion and the sadness of war, Coter said.

Mr. Ker served as honorary chair of the committee to build the Pelham Veterans Park. The a two-year project that led to the park's dedication on Remembrance Day in 2008.

"He was absolutely dedicated to serving the legion," said Coter.

The flag in front of the legion hall is flying at half mast in honour of Mr. Ker. A legion service was held at Lampman Funeral home on Tuesday.

Mr. Ker showed similar dedication to the Air Force Association of Canada as a member of 434 Niagara Peninsula Wing. He was in the association for 56 years.

"He was a very staunch member," said wing president Don Coter.

dent Don Feduck describing how he served on committees, set up events and attended conventions.

"He organized corn roasts at the Lions Hall in Fenwick," said Feduck.

Mr. Ker was in the Battle of Britain parade in Welland as a former Spitfire squadron leader. Feduck said during the Second World War Mr. Ker had two tours of duty in North Africa and Europe.

His 56-year-membership with the association went was the third longest.

Gerry Berkhout, who worked with Mr. Ker on legion and other projects, called him "a real fighter who never gave up."

"He was quite a guy who often inspired me to go on with something like the veterans park."

Berkhout said Mr. Ker felt the Legion's public speaking contests were very important.

"He was always there to help the young people. He was an inspiration for a lot of people especially the young ones."

Vilma Moretti remembers Mr. Ker as her Grade 12 chemistry teacher, worked with him to try to save Pelham District High School, and organized a series of school reunions.

"When I was a little girl in Fenwick, I didn't know about him as a war hero. He said little about it," she said.

As a teacher his was very entertaining with a very dry sense of humour that inspired students to learn, she said.

He spoke at all the reunions including one last year.

"He was very witty and always gave a talk," Moretti said you never knew what he was going to say."

Mr. Ker was a regular at Keith's Restaurant walking up from Shorthills and dropping in for lemon pie. "We'll miss him," she said. "It's a great loss for Pelham and particularly for Fenwick."

Mr. Ker was a lifelong resident of Fenwick and attended Pelham Continuation School, which became Pelham District High School.

He married his wife Anne before going overseas in 1941 with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Mr. Ker began teaching at Pelham District in 1952, became principal in 1965 until it closed in 1974. He then worked in continuing education with the Niagara South Board of Education.

see DEATH | Page 8

■ BRIDGE

Further archeological step would prove to be expensive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Originally, a realignment of River Road west of Edinburg Street was planned to ease the approach to the bridge.

However, a series of archaeological surveys along the proposed route through farm fields beside the road found both aboriginal and 19th century European artifacts, he said.

"Remains of early settlements are common along the river," he said.

The region decided the cost of carrying the archeological work required to

realign the road was too much. It will retain the current alignment of River Road.

A further archeological stage "would be a lot of work and very expensive," he said.

To retain a reference to the historic character of the iron bridge built in 1904, the region plans to use some of the iron pieces to erect a historical marker west of the bridge of the Pelham side.

It will include a picture of O'Reilly's Bridge and a plaque, said DiPaola.

■ CRIME: Takes 20 seconds to steal car

Thieves targeting luxury trucks, SUVs

PelhamNEWS Staff

In a recent vehicle theft caught on video, a thief in Niagara was able to enter a locked vehicle, start the car and pull out of a parking lot in only 20 seconds.

In the past year, according to Niagara Regional Police, a number of vehicle owners within the Golden Horseshoe have fallen victim to an organized crime auto theft ring.

And the vehicles of choice are luxury GMC trucks and SUVs.

Just last month, two trucks were stolen from the parking lot at Niagara College in Welland and a third truck vanished from Brock University.

"Trends in past years

have shown a rise in stolen autos as spring approaches," said NRP Det. Const. Tracy McCabe recently.

"Spring is just around the corner and when visitors start coming in and filling up the hotels, we will see an increase."

While police have recovered a few Ford and Chrysler vehicles, thieves favour GMC vehicles including Silverados, Denalis, Yukons, Avalanches, Escalades and SS Trailblazers.

And when police recover a stolen truck or SUV, there's usually not much left of the vehicle.

see VEHICLES | Page 9

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Wayne Campbell Staff Photo
 Erick Traplin plays and sings while his audience dances in bubbles during a March break concert at the Pelham Arena. It was part programs sponsored by the Town of Pelham and Pelham Public Library.



Wayne Campbell Staff Photo
 Ben Shoalts, a staff member with the Pelham's March break camp leads a band during a concert by children's entertainer Erick Traplin.

March break fun in Town of Pelham



Wayne Campbell Staff Photo
 Torey Craig plays the wash tub while Jonah Hibers dances during a concert by children's entertainer Erick Traplin at the Pelham Arena. It was part of the March break program by the Town of Pelham and Pelham Public Library.

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Ken Koyama

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN KOYAMA
Wayne Campbell, owner

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perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Everywhere a sign

One sector of the economy has been the focus of the federal, provincial and municipal governments began spending on infrastructure — the sign-making industry.

As you drive around Pelham, you can't miss current and coming road, park, building and bridge projects.

The signs are everywhere. We have big blue and green signs announcing Canada's Economic Action Plan.

We have white and red Ontario signs for the province's Building Ontario program.

And we have green and white municipal signs for the town's share.

Most of these are projects involve joint funding. That is, each government takes some of the money you give it through income, retail and property taxes to return it in the form of new roads, bridges, and buildings. Each government wants credit for its generosity with your money. So, it spends more of it on signs. That's why you see three signs on a project.

The H1st St. redevelopment work at Welland Rd. is a good example of this gaudy phenomena.

Of course, this is nothing new. Governments have cluttered the landscape with self-serving signs since they filled the first pothole.

Usually, the colour reflects the party in power — blue for Conservative, red for Liberal and orange for NDP.

What's odd is how they clash with sign display laws. No government would allow a business to put along a highway the dominating government signs as we see at road construction sites.

Pelham outlines third-party advertising law, that's exactly what federal and provincial signs on municipal property do.

Most people welcome the long-term benefit of infrastructure spending in the town. But do we really have to put up with the political filthiness?

comment

We must invest in youth of the town

On Dec. 21, 2009, we stood together as a community. We filled the streets with national pride as we witnessed the Olympic torchbearers as they travelled the road to Olympic history.

The excitement continued for 17 days in February, we were filled with pride and joy as we witnessed many young athletes realize their ultimate dream. They were the epitome of strength, dedication and endurance and a belief that anything is possible.

After witnessing so many awe inspiring moments, we need to question what contribution we can make to the success of our youth. Do we have some future Olympians in our midst?

For several years now, there has been ongoing debate surrounding the feasibility of constructing a recreational complex and twin pad in Pelham.

It would appear for reliable sources that we have the site, we will have the means and above all we have the youth.

Olympic athletes are not created in isolation. They are created by communities. They grow and thrive in communities who make an investment in them.

How can we say that Pelham can't afford such an expenditure. Can we afford not too?

We are turning away young players who are registering because our facilities can not handle the numbers.

See LETTER | page 14

Talent and hard work on display

While I watched a great Pelham team play hockey on the weekend, I reflected not only about the kids who were playing, but about those who couldn't afford to play.

You see, on Sunday afternoon my son and I cheered for the Pelham Panthers bantam A/E team in their second game for the Ontario Minor Hockey Association finals. These tal-



Dave Augustyn
MAYORAL VIEW

ented and hardworking players have been handed their way to a succession of playoffs to advance to the provincial finals.

They won their Sunday game against the Elmville Cougars 3-2 and currently lead the best three-of-five series by two games.

The game was fast and their play was tremendous. The Panthers showed exceptional skill. Clearly, not only have they worked very hard individually and as a team, but they also have received great coaching this year and in previous years.

Congratulations to the bantam A/E coaching team: coach Dino Germano, trainer Bill Rizzo, assistant coach Jason Young, and manager John Piccolo. You could see everyone playing to the best of their ability. The only things that mattered on the ice were their skills, their training, and their cunning. And, I wish them all the best in their Friday game in Elmville.

But, what if you had a similar talent and drive but your parents couldn't afford for you to play hockey or soccer or the sport you really love? Or what if you were skilled and passionate about playing piano or dancing and your mom just lost her job? What if your family couldn't afford that art class that you are desperate to take? Seeing Pelham's bantam team play reminded me that it's important to connect kids to the recreational, cultural, or artistic activity of which they dream.

And, during these difficult economic times, it's even more important to ensure that kids in need have the opportunity to use their talents — for art, for sport, for music — to their fullest potential.

see MAYOR | page 12

Benjamin Moore

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Message in a bottle

American Idol TV show, first day of the getting serious part, 24 contestants; top 12 ladies lead off. Neither Arnie nor Donna Jean has been all that awestruck by any of them.

Next morning, on one of their frequent casual walks around one of the big country blocks near their little town home, Donna Jean remarks:

"Every year, in the early going, there are a few people who knock you right off your feet. And they're usually the ones you'll see right up to the last few people are left at the end, and they'll stay really good week after week — maybe they won't make you say 'Wow!' every week, but they'll impress you every time. You mostly get a good idea of who that's going to be right away."

"This time, with those girls, I don't know. They were all decent enough, but nobody knocked my socks off. A couple of the guys really made an impression earlier, in the audi-

tions. Maybe tonight one or two of them will do it again.



Arnie Dwyer
HUMOUR

"I'm waiting for somebody to knock my socks off."

In one of those Arnie statements where he has been known to overestimate the capacity of other people to take in a large volume of subtle language references all at once, he affirms his wife's conviction: "Yeah, me too. I'm waiting for somebody to pull my socks down."

In what turns out to be a fairly standard response to Arnie's ability to overwhelm the human thought process with his language skills, Donna Jean responds, "What are you talking about this time? You're memory get screwed up again,

Am, or are you just being a jackass? The expression is 'knock your socks off.' You know that, don't you?"

"Aahh, my love you're so out of date with your old antique 18th century use of the language. Come on into at least the last century," he says in that reassuring way he has, that makes others feel so relaxed and not at all put off.

"What, the new way of saying it is 'Knock your socks DOWN,' is it?"

"No, Donna Jean. It's 'PULL your socks down.' And it will be in a couple years, once I've had time to get it out there into the world."

"And it means, what? The same a knock your socks off? Is that it?"

"No again, my little turtle dove. You gotta think just a little bit in front of the curve."

There's already an expression for "Wow, was that ever great! Knocked my socks off."

see COLUMN | Page 5

■ COLUMN

Composer needs your help

FROM PAGE 4

"What I was saying was, 'I hope the guys can go out there and impress me more than the girls did. Not awesome or anything, but enough to raise my eyebrows some, make me think, 'Ye know, that was real close to awesome! Not enough to knock my socks all the way off, but real good."

Close enough to get those guys thinking about coming all the way off, but not quite."

"So there you have it. Like I said: 'I hope some of those guys will be good enough to pull my socks down.'"

"Gimme a year and I bet I can get the whole country using it.

"Or at least North Pelham, and the north-east part of Thorold, up near the arena where my hockey buddies hang out."

So then, what you're reading right now is not really a column, or a story. It's more like a message in a bottle. A plea for help to anyone who might stumble upon the message. And the plea is: "To anyone out there who might happen to find this note.

Arnie Dyker, the composer of the note, needs your help.

"Your assistance can be provided in the following manner.

"First, try to become experienced in your personal life, with the expression, 'You did pretty well. Not great.

"Then, as you become better at using the expression, you can drop the whole intro part, and, when someone or something impresses you enough to raise your eyebrows but not quite bow you over, just look over with a knowing glance and say: 'That pulled my socks down."

"Now the easy part.

"Use the expression as much as you possibly can, with as many people as you possibly

can, in as many situations as you possibly can. "Explain the meaning when you have to, and encourage anyone you know to use it, too. 'Because it's really cool.' In particular, try to drive by the Old Thorold Arena, yelling the phrase out of your car window."

Try to drop by the hamlet of North Pelham, inquiring if any of the townspeople can help you find the home of the man

who wrote the article that "pulled my socks down."

"Don't be afraid to be creative. Seek out your own avenues to help spread this terribly important news."

Because Arnie Dyker, the author of this vital new addition to the English language, has found himself in a somewhat desperate situation.

He only has one year to prove that he's not a jacksack.

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High Performance Protein is actually a group of proteins that are found naturally in milk, however they must be filtered out and processed very carefully in order to deliver performance-based health benefits. These proteins contain unique blends of amino acids (the building blocks of protein)—in high dosages—that

have been documented through research to be able to positively impact various areas of your biochemistry (as listed in the above benefits).

High Performance Proteins are certainly not just for those wanting to build muscle (i.e. body builders), they are for anyone who is interested in taking their health to the highest level possible. After all, who wouldn't want better performance in almost any area of their life?

So if you're in the market for a natural whey (pun intended!) to support your body's ability to turn over, repair and replace worn out cells (think great skin, hair, nails and all the other things you can't see) High Performance Proteins are your best bet for metabolic success. Look for Ultimate High-Alpha Whey Protein if you are someone who trains or works out on a regular basis, or requires a high performance protein for health issues, and Ultimate High-Alpha Whey can also be used for those who want to increase their intake of quality protein on an ongoing basis for general good health, increased energy and better sleep.

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■ **FITNESS:** Seeking participants for eight-week weight-loss program

Big losers wanted

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Fitness instructor Heather Vandermere wants to turn Fonthill residents into big losers.

She is looking for participants for an eight-week weight-loss program.

"It's a good time for it, people want to lose weight to fit into those swim suits for the beach," she said.

Weight loss helps you gain energy and confidence, Vandermere said. The program will provide advice on proper nutrition and encourage exercise.

"Each participant will receive personal one-on-one coaching and the opportunity to win cash prizes for losing the most weight," she said.

The biggest-loss program begins Tuesday, March 30, at Fonthill United Church with two groups, one at 6:30 p.m. and the other at 8 p.m. It includes a half-hour information meeting and weigh-in.

To pre-register call Vander-



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Fitness instructor Heather Vandermere challenges Fonthill residents to become the biggest loser through an eight week fitness and weight loss campaign.

meer at 905-899-6200 or e-mail to weightloss101@live.com.
"I have had a passion for

health my whole life and I want to give back to local communities," she said.

She wants to encourage people "to change their lifestyles to achieve the proper nutrition their bodies need."

The eight-week program involves a \$40 fee that will be used to pay out prizes at the end. There will be an \$1 penalty for each pound gained and \$5 for missing a weigh-in.

"When you do it as a group, you will encourage each other," she said explaining the set up into two groups open to all ages. She hopes to have about 25 in each.

"It is an unfortunate fact that 59% of Canadian adults are considered overweight and that 30% of our children are overweight or obese," she said.

It is also projected that today's children will be the first generation not to outlive their parents, she said about recent statistics. "Now is the time for Canadians to take action and begin reversing the trend toward obesity," she said.

"I want to challenge Fonthill residents to be the biggest loser."

■ **ROADS**

Merritt Road overpass to be done in June

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — Drivers can expect minimal disruption on Hwy. 406 beginning next week as work continues on the Merritt Road overpass.

Bill Snow, senior vice-president of Rankin Construction, said a crew of 12 workers has been on site at the newly formed overpass since March 8.

The site sat untouched for more than two months over the winter, but work crews are back on the job with the project still on schedule for completion June 18.

Carrying traffic on Merritt Road over Hwy. 406, the bridge is being constructed by the St. Catharines-based company at a cost of \$3.2 million. The overpass, for which construction began in September, will allow access to the highway through connecting ramps.

The bridge is being constructed in preparation for the mainline widening of Hwy. 406, which is expected to begin in summer of 2011. The 406 will be widened from Port Robinson Road in Thorold to East Main Street in Welland.

Rankin's crew completed the bridge substructure before Christmas and was offsite working on projects for St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. during the winter months. Seaway work must be completed between mid-December and March.

Snow said the next step in the Merritt Road project is pouring the deck, a task that cannot begin until the weather warms up due to concrete's temperature restrictions.

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■ **PICTURE PERFECT:** Drawing during the break



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Ethan Fawcett, left, and Cayden Whittaker work on drawing of how they picture themselves as part of a March break art camp held by In the Orchard Programming for the Arts at Glynn A. Green Public School.

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Fish oil has been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's and dementia. Fish oil has also been shown to help relieve depression and arthritis, assist in fat metabolism and promote younger looking skin. The Japanese, the world's largest fish consuming nation, know all about these healthful benefits. Japanese people experience the lowest rates of heart attacks in the world and they have very low levels of obesity.



There has been a great deal of research and a lot of recent media coverage about the healthy benefits of Omega-3's. DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) and EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) are the active forms of Omega-3's. They are two long-chain Omega-3 EFAs that are used by the body to help control inflammation and maintain the brain and nervous system. A premium fish oil naturally supplies these important Omega-3 fatty acids.

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■ CHARITY: Pelham Cares receives \$1,000



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Dave Curphey, Scotiabank St. Catharines community manager, left, and Bill Hughson, Pelham Cares volunteer and retired Scotiabank manager, donate \$1,000 to Pelham Cares. The money comes from Scotiabank's community service fund. Hughson as a retired employee and Pelham Cares volunteer applied to the fund, which assists groups assisted by Scotiabank employees. This Saturday the Ontario Provincial Police Auxiliary will hold a one-day food drive at the Fonthill Sobey's for Pelham Cares.

■ VEHICLES

Cars are often set ablaze after they're stripped

FROM PAGE 2

"The cars are completely stripped," McCabe said. "They take the seats, air bags, motors, fenders, you name it."

Niagara police recently recovered a pickup truck in Grimsby that had been reported stolen from Halton region. All that was left of the vehicle was the white box. The motor was gone, the flatbed was gone and the original tires and rims were

gone.

Also, the transmission from a vehicle reported stolen in Niagara in December was recently recovered from a car in Waterloo. Often the vehicles are set ablaze after the parts are stripped.

Local police are warning owners to take a proactive approach in securing their vehicles such as having an ignition kill switch installed.

The toggle switch, hidden somewhere

inside the vehicle, is spliced into the ignition which can disable the vehicle.

"If the kill switch is not hit, the car won't start," McCabe said.

There are also fuel kill switches that are spliced into fuel system wiring that stops the fuel supply.

Owners can also secure a club device on the steering wheel whenever the vehicle is parked, including in the driveway.

BERTIE AND CLINTON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY DECLARES A 20% REFUND ON 2009 AUTOMOBILE PREMIUMS PAID



President Howard Augustine (left) receives refund cheque from Vice-President Brian Henslip (right) at Bertie and Clinton's head office.

Bertie and Clinton is a local Mutual Insurance Company that specializes in providing farm insurance to its owning members. By insuring with the company, you can also become a part owner and have a voice in how the company is run. Recently, the company declared a refund from surplus of 20% on property, liability and automobile premiums paid in 2009. Approximately \$1,000,000.00 was refunded to the policyholders provided they had been insured for at least one year and their policy was in force at December 31, 2009. Bertie and Clinton has declared a refund from surplus in fifteen of the last nineteen years and has provided insurance for Niagara Peninsula residents since 1880.

The company is run by nine directors who are elected by the policyholders at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors are elected for a three year term, with three being elected each year. At the annual meeting held March 16, 2010 Howard Augustine of Wainfleet, Larry Hippie of Beamsville and Donnicie Johnson of Niagara Falls were elected for three year terms. Howard Augustine of Wainfleet will serve the company as President for 2010-2011 and Brian Henslip of Wellandport was elected as Vice-President. Keith Hallborg of Welland is the Secretary-Manager.

Bertie and Clinton Mutual has agents and brokers throughout the Niagara Peninsula. If you own a farm in the Niagara Peninsula or for any other general insurance needs contact us at 1789 Merrittville Hwy., R.R.#2 Welland. 905-892-0606 or 1-800-263-0494, fax 905-892-0365

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Lions Club lends a hand



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Fonthill Lions Club assists the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to stock trout at the St. Johns Conservation Area pond in the St. Johns Valley. From left are Fonthill Lions president Robert Yungblut, executive director Terry McDougall of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation, land management Darcey Baker of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and Fonthill Lion Phil Rittenhouse.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Fonthill Lions Club donates \$200 to the Lions supported Camp Huronda, a summer camp for children with diabetes. From left are Lion John Mills, Ken Harrott, chair of the Diabetes Awareness Foundation, and Fonthill Lion John Nicolae.

DENTURES: Things Every Denture Wearer Should Know: DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ You should not wear loose dentures. Loose dentures can cause excessive friction and pressure toward the gum tissues and bones, resulting in painful sore spots and bone shrinkage. Have them checked.
- ▶ Dentures can warp if placed in hot water.
- ▶ Dentures can change shape if they dry out. When not in use, cover dentures with (room temperature) water or a denture-cleaning solution to prevent them from drying out.
- ▶ Dentures should be brushed inside and outside daily with a soft, large nylon denture toothbrush with round-ended bristles. Use denture creams instead of toothpaste, which is too abrasive and will scratch your denture. Rinse with cold water.
- ▶ Your mouth is constantly changing. Inspect your denture regularly for worn teeth and cracks.
Be sure to visit your dentist regularly as part of your recommended check up schedule.
- ▶ Some medications can affect denture fit and wearability so be sure to discuss this with your doctor and dental professional.
- ▶ Only your dental professional is qualified to diagnose your oral health and adjust your denture or partial.
- ▶ Worn and stained dentures can make you look older and cause your dentures to function poorly.

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■ **WORKSHOP:** Signing experience not necessary to participate

Star from The Sound of Music sings about musical theatre

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

So what is it like to work in musical theatre? Fonthill voice teacher Vicky Vlassis hopes to give her students and anyone else interested the answer during a musical theatre workshop on Saturday, April 17.

She has arranged for actress and musician Megan Nuttall – who recently starred as Liesl in the Dora Award winning Mirivish Production of The Sound of Music in Toronto – to provide coaching and guidance during the workshop.

Vlassis says she has students interested in a career in music. Many of them are teenagers looking at various fields.

Nuttall and Vlassis were music students at the University of Western Ontario.

They remained close friends while Nuttall branched into musical theatre and Vlassis into classical and operatic training for teaching.

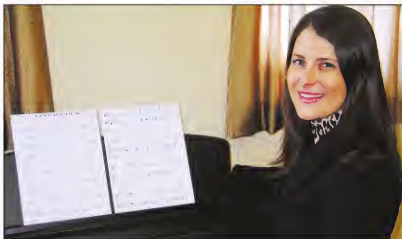
The workshop, open to both those with and without singing experience, is a opportunity to work with an active performer and learn valuable tips in a very professional, positive and fun environment," said Vlassis.

The \$25 workshop is divided into two four-hour sessions. The first is for those ages 9 to 13 while the second for 14 and over with information adjusted for each age group.

Through the sessions Nuttall and Vlassis will cover such topics as:

- finding your unique voice, confidence, songs that suit the singer, acting, interpretation and movement, performance anxiety, competitions, auditions, agents and planning a career.

The workshop will be held at Fonthill United Church. For information see Vlassis' website at www.vickylvlassis.com or call 289-566-9133. Nuttall, who lives in New York City holds a degree in Voice from the University of Western Ontario. She studied voice at the Centro Studi Lirica in Italy through the Manhattan School of Music, in New York



Voice teacher Vicky Vlassis is preparing for a musical theatre workshop with Megan Nuttall from The Sound of Music. It will be held at Fonthill United Church on Saturday, April 17.

Staff Photo

Other Toronto theatre credits include: Phillia in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Hart House Theatre), Babette in Disney's Beauty and the Beast (Fallen Rock Productions), and Sandy in Grease (Escape Production).

Film and TV credits include: Urban Legends 2 (Nextfilm Productions), How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria? (CBC), and Here and Now's Sounds of the Season, featuring the Bare Naked Ladies (CBC/CBC Radio).

Vlassis, who has taught voice for eight years, works out of the Fonthill Music Academy as well as in Niagara Falls. She also has a performance background in opera and classical music.

She is owner and director of VVR Voice Studios, Inc. and specializes in professional voice lessons and music education.

"The workshop is about finding the performer in you," she said. "Sometimes it's a matter of building confidence."

She hopes to have 30 to 35 students in each session, "about the size of a typical class."

She is also preparing her students for their annual studio recital at Fonthill United Church on May 30.

While most of her students are children and teenagers, she said she is finding an increasing interest among adults.

"About 15% are adults," including a couple in their 70s and 80s, she said. They do it out of personal interest or to improve their speaking and per-

formance abilities on the job.

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■ MAYOR

Mayor's Cup to Kconnect Kids

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

That's why this year's Mayor's Gala will be raising funds to support Connecting Kids. A special partnership fund established in 2001 by the town and Pelham Cares, Connecting Kids

allows a Pelham youth whose family has limited financial resources to participate in recreational, cultural, and educational programs.

The Mayor's Gala will be on Saturday, May 8, at Peninsula

Lakes Golf Club. For more information, tickets or to sponsor the event, please call 905-892-2607 ext. 337.

Please consider giving Pelham's youth the chance to reach their goals.

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■ DONATION: Rotary Club donates \$1,300



Submitted Photo

The Rotary Club of Fonthill recently provided renewed support to the Fogquest, represented by Richard Taylor, the club's president-elect, made the presentation during a recent breakfast meeting of the club. The club was able to double its donation through a Rotary District Simplified Grant. The money will be used to purchase equipment that is used to collect rainwater and turn it into drinking water in remote mountainous regions of developing countries.

■ ROTARY CLUB: New member welcomed into club



Submitted Photo

Tia Taylor, centre, is welcomed into membership of the Rotary Club of Fonthill during a recent Wednesday morning breakfast meeting. She is congratulated by Rotarian Hugh Graham, right, her sponsor, and Pat Duncan, the club's president-elect. The service club meets weekly at the Wildflower Restaurant.



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■ COFFEE HOUSE

Long history, rich tradition

BY ED BERTOLI
For PelhamNEWS

The 15-year history of the Fonthill Coffee House has seen many local artists on its various stages, all with their own eclectic musical styles. But at its inception, it was folk style music that ruled the roost.

Recently, at the January event, we had a taste of what must have inspired local musicians to gather at the old Davis Hall and begin to share their gifts all that time ago.

Rosemary Cote, a Port Colborne resident, started coming to the Coffee House a couple of years back, performing both as a solo act and as part of various duet, trio, and quartet permutations.

Her considerable vocal and instrumental musical abilities, coupled with a quiet but powerful stage presence convinced the committee to finally offer her a spot as one of our opening acts this season.

Rosemary jumped at the chance.

Although her bio at the Coffee House website states that she "want(s) to be rich and famous when I grow up," her reasons for making the gig are much more personal.

"I was very pleased and excited to receive the invitation to perform and couldn't wait to

get up there and share some tunes with the audience," she said.

With our devastating year in 2008 with illness and personal family losses, I am continuing to recover, and am associated to realize how much music has contributed as a powerful healing agent in my life.

"My life has changed, as all of our lives continue to change, and I've certainly had my fill of reminders regarding what is important and what is not, but through all of my recent experiences, I am still a true believer that music heals both the body and the soul."

The audience that night certainly shared that sentiment during her 45-minute set, as they were treated to an outstanding blend of vocals and instruments.

On stage with Rosemary were Cindy Marshall on 12-string guitar, Ed Bertoli on harmonica and acoustic guitar and Jim Stephenson on mandolin. Her selections included a wide mix of songs ranging from familiar sing-alongs, traditional tunes, soft ballads, and popular music all with that "folk" sensibility that recalls singing and making music with friends.

Her opening song, "Ain't No Bugs On Me" was a favourite

silly sing-along song that she sang many years ago around the campfire with childhood friends.

A golden retriever puppy on a recent TV commercial prompted her to work out an arrangement of this wonderful song with her banjo.

The smiles on the faces of the audience were in evidence as the song started, and pretty much stayed there the rest of the night. The medley of "You Are My Sunshine" and "Show Me The Way To Go Home" was a combination that instantly resulted in a sing-along by the audience.

Rosemary later commented that she wished that the entire audience could have been on stage "just so that they can hear how incredible they sound to the performers".

Next on her list were "Cousin Mary" by the Canadian band Plüdd, a recent addition to her traditional folk song list, and "Long Black Veil" which has always been one of her favourite songs to perform.

Cindy, Jim and Ed added a fine blend of instruments and harmonies to both of these great songs. As a longtime fan of Canada's Leonard Cohen, Rosemary's rendition of "Hallelujah" was most definitely a warm addition to the coffee

house atmosphere. With Cindy Marshall providing softly haunting harmonies, and the additional vocal blend from Ed and Jim and the entire audience, the chorus of "Hallelujah" was resounding off of the walls of the Old Pelham Town Hall.

Rosemary first heard "We Laughed" on CBC radio, and knew that this was a song for her. Madeline Edgington was a terminally ill single mother with a thirteen year old daughter who was having a very difficult time understanding why her mom was leaving her forever.

Madine wrote a poem to her daughter, to

remind her of the many good times that they shared, laughing and loving each other. British musician Billy Bragg put those lyrics to music. The resulting combination moved the hearts and soul of all those who heard Rosemary sing her version of it that night.

Next up was Gordon Lightfoot's "Christian Island" which drew the audience into it with its lilting harmonies and delicate finger-picking styles.

To top off the evening in a final sing-along, Rosemary got the whole audience going with the Justin Rutledge tune "Don't be Mean, Jelly

Bean", a song she first heard on CBC Radio when she was ill.

Next up the Fonthill Coffee House features Jack Harlan on Friday, April 9.

It is held at Old Pelham Town Hall, 491 Canboro Road, at Memorial Drive and is wheelchair accessible.

For more information please contact Jim Stephenson 905-862-0732 or Graeme Box 905-363-1226 or go to www.myspace.com/fonthillcoffeehouse.

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■ JULIE DENSHAM

Education Foundation director has a belief in karma

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

ST. CATHARINES – For Julie Densham, karma is her religion.

It's karma in the sense of "helping people when they need it" not in the sense of gaining benefit for yourself from good deeds, explains the executive director of the Education Foundation of Niagara.

"Every day someone has a greater need than you," she said.

She tells the story of a girl who couldn't go to the prom because her family could not afford a dress. She found her one.

That led to Prom Project Niagara, which assists young people who need a dress or suit. Local dry cleaners act as drop off points for donations of dresses or suits.

Education foundation programs strive "to equalize family access to education," she said.

It's about the single mom working at three jobs without benefits. She can't afford glasses for her son who can't see the board. Working through the principal and teacher, the foundation can help pay for the \$200 for glasses, she explained.

Densham, a 44-year-old single mother with four teenagers at home, has directed a growth of the foundation over the past four years.

The foundation is an arms-length charity supporting the District School Board of Niagara's students.

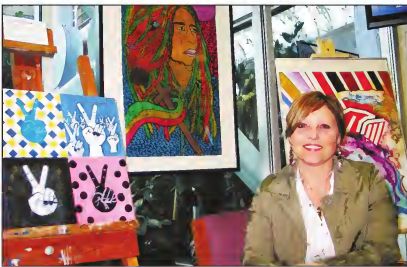
While it has been around since 1995, it has stepped up its profile since 2006.

"When I started here I had a desk, computer, paperclips and an elastic band," said Densham sitting in her office at the DSBN's headquarters beside the Queen Elizabeth Way.

Over the past three years the fund has dispersed \$120,000 in 2008, \$105,000 in 2009 and hopes to hand out \$150,000 in 2010, she said. It's programs, some of which take aim at poverty, are designed to help individual children, she said.

It does not pay for curriculum and other programs mandated by the provincial ministry of education. That's what taxes cover.

The foundation strives to help students in each of the board's 98 elementary



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Julie Densham sits among student artwork at the District School Board of Niagara headquarters.

and 22 secondary schools.

For example, at high school graduations it gives out a scholarship.

Densham said when she worked at Niagara College, she noticed academically achieving students received scholarships and those in financial need got bursaries.

"There was nothing for the deserving student in the middle," and that's who she receives a foundation high school scholarship.

Densham, who was born in Grimsby and lives there today, spent much of her 20s living in Europe.

She said she returned to Grimsby and became a "stay-at-home mom" who did extensive volunteer work with various groups.

"When I was 35, I had to decide what to do with the rest of my life," she said.

She took an events programming course

at Niagara College because of her interest and experience in volunteer work. It led to a part-time job with Niagara College's foundation.

When the full-time school board position came open, she applied for it.

She said she enjoys the challenge of building a program from the bottom up.

It involves a mixture of high-profile events to raise awareness about the education foundation and fundraising through corporate and private donations.

Densham admits there is a lot of competition with many organizations out there looking for money.

She has to field questions such as why the school board needs a foundation, whether corporate demands will influence education and if the foundation allows the government to dodge funding responsibilities.

Foundation programs go beyond the normal education funding to try to ensure equal access for all students, she said.

In working with corporations, the school board is careful not to create expectations beyond "a win-win" public relations partnership to assist the community, she said.

As far as waiting for governments to improve funding for programs in schools to fight poverty, Densham said "the children need our help now."

There are students coming to school who say they lost their lunches or forgot to make it, she said.

"In reality, they have nothing to eat."

Teachers notice it and can work through the foundation's poverty and emergency relief fund to help, she said.

As both a single mother and someone who was not part of the education system, such as a former teacher, Densham said she sometimes has a different perspective on the needs of students.

She realizes from experience with her children, for example, swimming lessons can be expensive.

That's why she saw a benefit in a \$15,000 Swim to Survive program with the YMCA for 450 Grade 3 students from the region's 22 high priority schools, generally in lower income areas.

"You just carried stories about high river and creek waters," she said.

At the same time, she admits she had to learn a lot about how the education system works. And she has respect for the dedication she sees among teachers, principals and administrators.

Densham said she believes in keeping herself and her children active.

Obesity is now a leading health risk for children.

"It comes from eating too much and too much sitting around. You can go by a school and see children sitting on benches texting or listening to their iPods."

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EASTER EVENTS

St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church
834 Canboro Rd., Fenwick, Palm
Sunday (Passion Sunday) Sunday, March
27, 5:00 p.m. Palm Sunday
(Passion Sunday) Sunday, March 28,
9:30 a.m. 11 a.m.

Holy Thursday, Lord's Supper,
Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
until 10 p.m. Good Friday, Lord's Pas-
sion, Friday, April 2, 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday Easter, April 3,
Noon- Blessing of Easter Baskets 8:30
p.m. Easter Vigil Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 4, Masses 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m.

Pelham Community Church, 461
Canboro Rd., Fenwick

Friday, April 2 - Good Friday Ser-
vice 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service 8 a.m., Continental
Breakfast 8:30 a.m., Easter Service
9:30 a.m. Pelham Friends Church, 940
Hilist St. Good Friday Service at 11
a.m. Easter Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

Fonthill United Church, 42 Church
Hill, Fonthill

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday -
10 a.m. Friday, April 2 - Good Friday -
Joint Service at Central United Church
in Welland - 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 4 - Easter Sunday - 10
a.m.

Concordia Lutheran Church, 105
Welland Rd., Fonthill

March 28 Palm Sunday 10:45 a.m.
April 1, Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. -
Holy Communion

April 2 Good Friday 10 a.m.
April 4 Easter Sunday 10:45 a.m. -
Holy Communion

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HOLY WEEK (March 29-31)
Masses: 9 a.m. Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday

Mass of the Christ (Cathedral):
7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Evening Prayer & Reconciliation: 7
p.m. Monday, Wednesday

HOLY THURSDAY (April 1)
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7 p.m.

(nightwatch until 11:30 Night Prayer)

This includes footwashing, blessing
of ministers, and absolving

for the poor (for St. Vincent de Paul,
Hope Centre, "Share Lent")

GOOD FRIDAY (April 2) Morning
Prayer: 9 a.m. (readings 8:30 a.m.)

Stations of the Cross / Midday
Prayer: 11:15 a.m.

Commemoration of the Lord's Pas-
sion and Crucifixion: 3 p.m.

This includes John's passion
account, solemn intercessions,
veneration of the cross, com-
munion, a Holy Land collection.

Words from the Cross / Divine
Mercy Novena / Evening Prayer

8:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY (April 3) Morning
Prayer: 9 a.m. (readings 8:30 a.m.)

Blessing of the Easter Baskets: 12 p.m.

Evening Prayer (chapel): 3 p.m.

Easter Vigil Celebration (Night-
watch) of the Lord's Resurrection:
8 p.m. and first Mass of Easter (recep-
tion after)

There is no 5 p.m. Mass tonight. The
Easter Vigil fulfills the

obligation of Sunday; it continues
for two hours.

EASTER SUNDAY (April 4) Eucha-
ristic Celebration of the

8 a.m. Lord's Resurrection (Mass): 9:30
a.m., 11 a.m.

All Masses include renewal of bap-
tismal profession of faith and

children's first communion.

EASTER OCTAVE: Divine Mercy
Sunday (April 11) Reconciliation 2
p.m. Holy Hour 2:30 p.m.

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sports

■ **MINOR HOCKEY:** Pelham's on a roll in OMHA finals



Submitted Photo
The Pelham Panthers react following a goal in their match against Elmvalle at Pelham Arena.



Submitted Photo
The Pelham Panthers celebrate after a goal in their Ontario Minor Hockey Association game against Elmvalle Coyotes at Pelham Arena.

Panthers need one more win for title

BERND FRANKE
PelhamNews Staff

PELHAM — The Buckner's Source for Sports Pelham Panthers continue to make quick work of the opposition in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoffs.

On the weekend the bantam A/E team opened a best-of-five final against the Elmvalle Coyotes with back-to-back victories to take a 2-0 lead into Friday evening's Game 3 at Elmvalle.

Not only would a win in that 8 p.m.

faceoff give the Panthers a provincial championship, it would clinch the team's fifth sweep in as many series during this post-season. After advancing to the OMHA playoffs by eliminating Niagara-on-the-Lake and Dundas in regional qualifiers, Pelham also needed only the minimum three games to dispatch New Hamburg and St. Marys to the sidelines in the provincial quarter-finals and semifinals respectively. If necessary, Game 4 is at Pelham Arena on Saturday 5 p.m.

This remarkable streak nearly came to an end curling in Elmvalle, where

the Panthers prevailed in a 4-3 overtime victory. Nick Rizzo netted the game winner five minutes into the 10-minute extra period as Pelham played its first overtime game of the playoffs. Sam Gazzola, with two goals; and Matthew Lewis scored in regulation for Pelham. Sunday's Game 2 in Pelham also was decided by one goal. Lewis, with his 15th of the post-season, Tyler Young and Rizzo, with his second game winner in as many starts, provided the offence and goaltender Dryden Berketo the defence as the Panthers extended their playoff

winning streak to 13 games.

Coach Dino Germano said in addition to "peaking at the right moment," the Panther players are seeing the benefits of all the hard work they've put into practices.

"This team really works hard. We've been practising a lot getting prepared for our opponents," he said.

Pelham has been on fire since Dec. 15 when it lost its last game.

"As a team, they've just been getting better."

sports@wellandtribune.ca

■ **CURLING**

Bodogh and friends throw rocks for memories

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNews Staff

WELLAND — Marilyn Bodogh made it 11 sweeps in a row as honorary chair of the 11th annual Curl for Memories Bonspai at the Welland Curling Club Saturday.

What organizers call the annual "funspiel" is one of four annual fundraisers for the Alzheimer Society Niagara Foundation.

While the number of rinks were a little down, development officer Gina Delle Rosa said the event had raised

\$15,000 early in the afternoon Saturday on its way to a hoped for \$20,000.

In addition to \$35 per person entry fee, the event included a silent auction and half-and-half draw.

Bodogh, former women's world curling champion, brought in a guest opponent Gloria Campbell, who was inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame in 2007.

Campbell, a senior champion, in turn, brought her own celebrity team which included Anne Dunn another member of the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame.

Dunn was a Canadian senior and world champion.

Borough said she has a particular affection for the bonspai because she has Alzheimer's disease.

"Besides it's a lot of fun, a local event and I get to curl with my husband," she said.

She said she has curled for 45 years beginning at age 10.

She won world championships in 1986 and 1996 and offered her expertise as a draw for the foundation. She would give the person with the top pledge a curling lesson.

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www.pelhamsoccerclub.com

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■ FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

It's slower than CSI

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNews Staff

WELLAND — When your job is portrayed on TV as fast and sexy, you expect misconceptions.

Special Const. Terry A. Smith of the Niagara Regional Police's Forensic Services Unit dealt with some of them when he spoke at a Lunch and Learn session at the Welland Historical Museum Saturday.

CSI Miami and the various CSI spinoffs have given forensic sciences a high profile. He used shots of the TV stars interspersed in his slide presentation outlining forensic services.

He was asked if Niagara Regional Police had big screens to move computer files around by hand.

"They're beyond cool," he said about the wall-sized TV tools.

"However, if that's actually out there, it's not likely affordable" for the NRP. Museum curator Penny Morningstar asked if female investigators with the NRP tend to crime scenes wearing stiletto heels and styled hair.

Smith laughed saying the women he works with tend to wear more sensible clothing and shoes at crime scenes.

"After all, we work in Niagara, not Miami. It's a little colder."

Smith said unrealistic expectations is the biggest problem created by the CSI shows.

"We have to bring things a little more in focus," he said. "The reality is it takes far more time" to do investigations than implied on TV.

For example, it takes time to get DNA information.

The NRP and other Ontario police services send their samples to the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto, which has a staff of scientists to do advanced work.

"It takes 60 to 90 days to get back swabs from a routine break-and-enter," he said. "For higher profile cases, we will put the pressure on for faster results, but so are other police services."

While the timelines may not be as quick or the equipment as spectacular, the NRP does follow investigations of fingerprints, blood spatters, footprints and DNA to solve crimes. Cigarette butts, chewing gum, clothing and envelopes are excellent sources of DNA, Smith said.

"People who send threatening letters can be traced from saliva on licked envelopes as well as fingerprints," he said. They use computer software to make composite pictures of suspects as well as national services for fingerprint, mug shots and DNA searches.

Smith described his forensic science technician role as a collector of information. Forensic scientists in Toronto will do higher level of research and interpretation.

NRP's Forensic Services Unit has developed a degree of specialization in different areas among its members.

While Smith specializes in fingerprints, others work on blood spatters, shoe impressions, tire impressions and other types of potential evidence.

"A shoe impression because of nicks and wear can be as distinctive as a fingerprint," said Smith. There is even a data base on shoe impressions.

Video is another tool Smith said. Most people don't realize each day they may be video taped 20 to 30 times.

"Tim Hortons has great videos," he said partly because of the number of backup attempts.

Smith uses his fingerprint skills to change the direction of a murder investigation. In 2001 a man was killed in his garage. His estranged wife was visiting from British Columbia but was with her daughter at the time of the murder.

"We do not suspect the wife," Smith said until they took fingerprints from her rental car. It contained fingerprints of two other people from B.C. made on the same day.

"Once we had the fingerprints her defence crumbled like a deck of cards," he said. She was found guilty of orchestrating the murder and sentenced to 25 years.

It may not have the dramatic style of CSI Miami, the NRP used forensic science to uncover the murder.